

Troop D History

On November 24, 1931, troopers reported to their assignments around the state after graduating from the 1st Recruit Class the day before. There was a total of nine troopers assigned to Troop D Headquarters, which was run out of the Highway Department district building in Joplin, MO. The original members were Captain Lewis E. Eslick, Sergeant Harve M. Sayers, and Troopers Victor O. Dosing, Otto L. Viets, Harvey L. George, George B. Kahler, Charles P. Newman, John T. Soraghan, and Walter E. Grammer. Four members were assigned to headquarters (Jasper County), one in Vernon County, one in Hickory County, two in Greene County, and one in Stone County.

The original members of the troop had their work cut out for them. Never had there been an agency tasked with patrolling the entire state with virtually no jurisdictional boundaries. The agency was supported by many and loathed by others. Troop D was responsible for 22 counties—Bates, Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barry, Lawrence, Dade, Cedar, St. Clair, Henry, Benton, Hickory, Polk, Greene, Christian, Stone, Taney, Dallas, and Laclede. With the lack of radio communications in patrol cars, contact points had to be established so the officers could receive their calls. In the first two weeks, 40 locations were found at businesses ranging from restaurants to gas stations. Other contact points were always being sought. Troopers had assigned routes and would stop at these predetermined points to receive phone messages from troop headquarters.

On April 13, 1932, Troopers Kahler and Grammer were involved in the Patrol's first shootout with the Bonnie and Clyde gang. This occurred after the Neosho Milling Company was robbed and the proprietor, Harry Bacon, and his wife were held captive until the safe was rifled open. The description of the robbers fit the occupants of a house located on 34th Street and Oak Ridge Drive in the Newton County portion of Joplin. It was also reported several vehicles, all with plates from different states, had been seen there. Troopers Kahler and Grammer went to Neosho and got a search warrant from the prosecutor. They, along with the town constable, Wes Harryman, returned to Joplin. Harryman would serve the warrant, due to the law of the time. It was unknown at the time who occupied the stone house.

The gang opened up with rifles and shotguns. Constable Harryman was killed instantly. Joplin Police Detective Harry McGinnis was shot through a crack in the door as he attempted to shoot through a window with his revolver. He died later that night. Tpr. Kahler took aim at Clyde and thought he had killed him. He later learned he had only shot his necktie off. Tpr. Kahler was then hit in the face by several stone fragments after bullets from the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) fired by W.D. Jones struck the side of the house near his location. Jones, in turn, thought he had killed Tpr. Kahler and started looking for Tpr. Grammer. In a 1980 interview, retired Lieutenant George Kahler explained:

“There was a side window in the apartment. Just as I looked up to check it, W.D. Jones swung a Browning machine rifle out of the garage door and opened up. With the initial burst, I felt sharp pains in my face and neck. I thought, ‘My God, half my head is gone.’ But the shells had hit the house, and I’d been struck by stone fragments blown free by the slugs.

I knew I had no chance against that kind of firepower with my little .38 pistol, so I ran around the house. He continued to fire, and how he missed, I’ll never know. As I rounded the corner I tripped over a poultry wire that bordered a flowerbed and fell. As I rolled around the corner of the house, I saw Jones turn around.

“Where did the other son of a bitch go?” he said, meaning Grammer. Jones thought he’d killed me.

From about 25 feet away, I took careful aim and fired. The slug hit him just beneath the right shoulder blade. He fell back inside the garage.

This was the last cartridge in my revolver, so I ducked back down and began reloading. Suddenly, I heard someone coming around the opposite side of the house. Again, I thought I’d had it, but it was only Walt Grammer”.

At this point, Tpr. Kahler took careful aim and shot Jones from 25 feet away, striking him under the right shoulder blade. The Barrows threw Jones inside the vehicle. Bonnie Parker and Blanche Barrow joined the men in the car. The Joplin Police car was blocking their exit from the garage. Buck exited and released the parking brake, allowing the car to roll down the hill out of their way. Tpr. Kahler and Joplin Police Detective Tom DeGraff, shot at the fleeing vehicle, but to no avail. This gun battle lasted approximately one minute. The gang had escaped, but not before they left behind several photos, a poem written by Bonnie entitled “Suicide Sal”, and the rifle, which is on display at the Patrol’s Safety Education Center. A year later, Tpr. Kahler would again cross paths with W.D. Jones.

“W.D. Jones left the gang in August of 1933 and was captured on his way back to Dallas. I later interviewed him in the penitentiary at Huntsville. By that time, Buck Barrow was dead from wounds suffered in another gun battle near Platte City, MO, and his wife, Blanche, had been caught in Iowa,” says retired Lt. Kahler in the same 1980 interview.

“Jones showed me the scar left from my bullet. The place it exited his chest left a hole large enough to put your thumb into. The slug had passed completely through him but missed his vital organs. He said they’d stopped at a country store after fleeing Joplin and bought a little bottle of rubbing alcohol. Bonnie Parker pried open the wound with knitting needles and filled it with the alcohol. That was the only treatment he’d had!”

Changes occurring with personnel during the first few years consisted of Troopers Chester R. Oliver and Harry H. Wells being assigned to Troop D in 1932, and the resignation of Trooper Soraghan in 1933. Other notable events include Troop D Headquarters moving from Joplin to the Highway Department’s district building on North

Weller in Springfield in May 1933, where it remained until 1938. In September 1935, Laclede County was transferred from Troop D to the newly formed Troop F.

In 1935, members were: Captain Lewis B. Howard, First Sergeant Sayers, Sergeants Viets and Newman, and Troopers Burnum, Kahler, George, Oliver, Graham, Wright, Grammer, Eidson, Dosing, Brooks, and McClure.

Retired Lieutenant Eugene B. Burnum reflected on his early years on the Patrol as a trooper during a conversation in February 2004. He stated contact points were the main means of communication when he came on. He remembered any call that was only 30 minutes old was considered to be a "HOT" call. He was paired up with Victor Dosing for two years before he opened the Clinton station with Ralph N. Eidson.

In 1936, the Federal Radio Commission (now known as the Federal Communications Commission) approved the Patrol's installation of a radio-teletype transmitter at General Headquarters. Communications with this new system were still inadequate for the members of Troop D. Lack of range and electrical static caused from within the Capitol made it necessary for Springfield to receive messages from agencies not manned by the Patrol.

In 1937, Captain Eslick of Troop F (formerly the Troop D captain) was credited for designing the first Patrol shoulder patch. It was sewn onto the left sleeve of the service blouse. Today, the patch is of the same design.

"On November 10, 1939, I transferred to Troop D," recalled retired Sergeant Roy F. 'Pappy' Dix in a 1980 interview. "I drove to the troop headquarters in Springfield to pick up Trooper H.P. Bruner, who had just joined the Patrol. We were to be stationed in Neosho, the first troopers to ever live there. The troop commander, Captain Reed, told me, 'Now, Dix, you're going to find that half the cars in McDonald County are not licensed, but there's nothing you can do about it. We just can't get any prosecution on this charge'.

"'Nothing' is a broad assumption. This problem was a challenge to me, and I resolved to meet it. The first day on the road we arrested a man for having no license plates. Captain Reed looked at the ticket and smiled. 'It won't do you any good,' he repeated. He was right; the fellow was gone from the courthouse before we were.

But, you know, we did find a way to force those people to buy license plates. I guess I can tell it now after 40 years. Bruner and I reasoned that if a car had no license plate, the driver had no right to drive it. McDonald County is very hilly. When we'd stop somebody, we'd always make sure it was on an upgrade. We'd make him hoof it home and leave the car. Emergency brakes weren't too good in those days and when the driver returned to get the car, he'd usually find it had rolled into the ditch and he'd have to find somebody to pull it out.

Several months passed and Captain Reed came down to ride and talk with me on my shift. We drove McDonald County highways a whole day and didn't see one car without a license plate. 'OK,' he said, 'how'd you do it?'

‘Captain, it’s a long story and I’d rather not relate it,’ I said. He never mentioned it again.”

On July 28, 1940, at 8 p.m., the Safety Squadron was at the intersection of Highways 47 and 71 north of Joplin when a car occupied by two men and a woman went through the intersection without stopping. Trooper Clarence Potts followed on his motorcycle and was fired at with a shotgun. After the car turned onto a gravel road, Tpr. Potts could follow no further because of heavy dust. A short time later, the car was found abandoned in a cornfield after it had entered a dead-end road. The fugitives decided to take to the brush. It was determined the two men had escaped from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. A manhunt ensued consisting of 50 peace officers. At midnight, Troopers Walt Grammer, Paul Hardy, and Potts were halted two miles west of Carl Junction by a barricade of logs placed across Highway 16 by the subjects. Tpr. Grammer went to the rear of his car, saw the flash of a gun, and heard three shots. He returned fire. Several pellets from the third shotgun blast struck him. After being taken to a doctor’s office and having nine pellets removed from his leg, Tpr. Grammer returned to the search party. The fugitives were later caught at three nearby locations.

On December 7, 1941, a report was received from Constable Love on an AWOL soldier, James Milan Nedimovitch, in possession of a stolen Packard passenger car at the Coffee Pot Tavern in Galloway off U.S. Highway 65 (now a community in Springfield off South Lone Pine). The vehicle had been reported stolen in Arkansas. Constable Love requested assistance from Justice Stubbs and Troopers “Vic” Dosing and Sam Graham to make contact with Nedimovitch. Nedimovitch was also wanted for a murder in Little Rock, AK. Information was developed that he was dating one of the waitresses at the Coffee Pot Tavern. Nedimovitch was reported to be staying in the apartment above the coffee shop, which looked like its lid from the outside.

Tpr. Dosing, followed by Tpr. Graham, Constable Love, and Justice Stubbs made their way up the stairs. As they reached the top, the door opened and a hail of gunfire streamed out the door. Tpr. Dosing was fatally shot in the chest and Tpr. Graham was seriously wounded. Tpr. Dosing fell into the doorway of the apartment. Tpr. Graham fell backward into Constable Love. There was silence for several minutes. Then, a gunshot was heard coming from inside the apartment. Nedimovitch had taken Tpr. Dosing’s service weapon and committed suicide with it.

Retired Sergeant Hubert P. Bruner reflected on this fateful day. It was Sergeant Kahler’s birthday, and he and Trooper Wadley were at the office, located at a Civilian Conservation Camp in Neosho (this was when Camp Crowder was being built). He stated he was at home and was called and directed to pick up Tpr. Wadley at the office and report to Springfield. He and Tpr. Wadley were four miles outside of Neosho when they received a radio message advising them the assailant had been shot. He was directed to go back to his office in Neosho. While back at the office, they were talking about Vic and Sam. The radio broadcasted Pearl Harbor had been attacked. This incident had occurred within 10 minutes of the actual time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The next day’s headlines were split in the Springfield News Leader: “State Trooper Slain,” was followed by “Japs Attack Pearl Harbor”. The newspaper contained more information about the shooting in Galloway than anything else. Trooper Bruner and

Sergeant Roy Robertson served as honor guards, while retired Lieutenant Eugene Burnum served as a pallbearer at Tpr. Dosing's funeral. After Tpr. Graham recovered, he left the Patrol for a job with the U.S. Secret Service.

Tpr. Dosing was the third member of the Patrol to die in the line of duty. His wife, Rosalie, was pregnant with their third daughter at the time of his death.

On February 21, 1942, a Patrol Auxiliary was formed to assist with wartime duties. On June 1, 1942, weigh station operations were transferred from the Highway Department to the Patrol. Stations 9 (Carthage) and 10 (Springfield) were established. In 1950, an additional weigh station was added in Republic.

On August 15, 1947, the first aircraft traffic enforcement operation occurred in Troop D. Drivers were stopped for unsafely passing on hills. This was a new enforcement tactic, and it was unknown how the public would react. Therefore, only warnings were given.

On December 14, 1948, Troop D Headquarters was moved to West Sunshine in Springfield.

On November 25, 1953, Troopers Ronald and Donald Selvey became the first set of identical twins to serve on the Patrol. They were both assigned to Troop D. Ronald was assigned to Neosho and Donald was assigned to Springfield. They both retired on May 31, 1989.

"Don got his telegram accepting him as a recruit and I didn't get one," said retired Sergeant Ronald Selvey in a 2005 interview. "I blamed that on getting married. But, turned out a western union clerk saw the two messages and thought they were the same message. She threw one away.

Sergeant Tom Loy came to the house, because Don had accepted and I hadn't answered. He came to the house and said, 'Your brother accepted his, why didn't you?' I told him I didn't get a telegram. 'Oh, you didn't get one? You were supposed to.' He sent me to Western Union to send a message of my acceptance provided the offer was still in effect. Western Union didn't make me pay for that. Said it was their mistake."

"We were assigned to a special assignment in Carthage one night," said retired Sergeant Donald Selvey in a 2005 interview. "We were riding together. We got a call ... we found one gentleman had a concealed weapon. We arrested him. Ron went in to testify. He came out and I went in. The judge said, 'Wait a minute. Have your brother come in. I want the jury to see you side-by-side.' The jury laughed. Of course, so did the judge. He said he didn't want the jury to think we were trying to pull one over on them—there were two witnesses.

"Here's a story," tells retired Sgt. Ron Selvey in the 2005 interview. "Don was in Springfield at the time. I had pulled into a truck stop to eat supper. It was near the state line of Oklahoma. I had just finished eating. This man walked up and had the most confused look on his face. I looked up and spoke to him. He said, 'I'd like to know something. How'd you get here so fast?' I said, 'I don't know what you mean.' He said,

'You stopped me in Springfield and I've been driving as fast as I dared. Here you are, finished eating.' I forget what I said. Probably something like, 'I guess I took a short cut.'".

In 1959, the first Patrol helicopter was placed into service. Troop D Sergeant Bill East transferred to Jefferson City and became the first full-time pilot.

In 1961, four polygraph instruments were placed into service, one of which was assigned to Troop D.

In 1967, the Missouri State Highway Patrol exhibit trailer debuted at the Empire State Fair in Springfield. For the first time in the Patrol's history, 79 men were lodged, three per room, at the Holiday Inn. This was a milestone for the Patrol. Previously, members were required to stay in rooming houses and/or put in homes of other members.

In 1969, riots were rampant statewide at colleges and universities. Troop D officers quelled an attempt in Springfield before it could even get started.

On June 14, 1969, Trooper Edward B. "Ed" Spear was on a traffic stop in Marshfield with a vehicle for excessive speed. The lady's husband, a motel manager, became argumentative while Tpr. Spear was writing a traffic citation. The man returned with a shotgun and confronted him. Tpr. Spear exited with his riot gun and became involved in a physical confrontation with the man, disarming him. The man was able to go back inside the motel and retrieve a .45-caliber revolver. Tpr. Spear ducked behind his patrol car, but the man had fired quickly, striking him in the left hip. A second round struck the Vis-A-Bar. The man was later taken into custody without further incident.

A contract painter fell from the Troop D tower, approximately 200 feet, when his support rope broke. The man, Jerry Cook, was 26 years old and employed by Globe Industries Contractors.

On October 1, 1973, the first satellite stations, commanded by lieutenants, began operations. Troop D's is located in Carthage.

On July 14, 1976, Troop D held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Troop D Satellite Headquarters in Carthage. Colonel Sam S. Smith, superintendent of the Patrol, took part in the ceremony along with several others. Col. Smith also gave an address, expressing the Patrol's appreciation to the many citizens and officials of Jasper County who supported the project and were helpful in obtaining land for the building site. Work on the building began immediately after the ceremony.

On February 14, 1977, Troop D Headquarters was relocated to its current location at 3131 E. Kearney Street in Springfield. Later that year, Troop D's first fixed wing aircraft was assigned to the troop.

On January 30, 1978, Trooper E. Mike Shockley was critically wounded while trying to apprehend two men wanted in an earlier shooting incident. The men had shot out the window to the Land-O-Lakes Drive-In restaurant in Fair Play. They then assaulted and

shot the café owner in the leg when he protested. Later that evening, it was reported the gunmen had been sighted near the old Circle C restaurant building in Fair Play. The building was surrounded, and a deputy took one of the men into custody without incident. The other man was lying by the restaurant with a gun in his hand. Tpr. Shockley stepped around the corner with his shotgun aimed at the man. He directed him to surrender. The gunman fired his .22-caliber weapon, striking Tpr. Shockley in the left temple. Deputies pulled Tpr. Shockley to safety. The man refused to throw down his weapon and was killed at the scene by law enforcement. Tpr. Shockley recuperated and returned to duty. Tpr. Shockley retired June 1, 2005.

Troop D gained two new weigh stations on Interstate 44, west of Joplin in 1980. The eastbound scale opened on November 24, and the westbound scale opened in December. The cost of the entire project was \$666,554, which was paid with federal and state funds. The new scales were equipped with electronic Cardinal scales, and saw much activity due to their location near the Oklahoma Turnpike.

In 1981, there was a massive manhunt for four escaped prisoners from Kansas in southwest Missouri. After six days, all four convicts were captured.

A Troop D Auto Theft Task Force recovered 29 stolen vehicles and 19 stolen tractors in a cooperative effort among the Patrol, FBI, and St. Louis Police Department Auto Theft Unit. Those involved were Sergeant Rayma B. Divine, Sergeant Wayne A. Murphy, Sergeant Gary C. Smith, Sergeant Harry L. Williams (all Troop D), and Sergeant Bobby G. Gibson, GHQ. Troop D Mechanics Mark D. Riddle and Jerry S. Rogers assisted.

On September 1, 1982, Howard Hoffman was named superintendent. He had been the Troop D Captain from August 1, 1975, to May 31, 1980.

"A year before I retired in 1989," relates retired Sergeant Ronald Selvey in the 2005 interview, "a careless driver was coming down Highway 13. Tpr. J.L. Walker got a call on it but missed him. I caught him, so I stopped him. He had a warrant in Henry County. I searched his car and decided I was going to have to take him in to post bond. I put my nightstick in my holder and came up to him, told him to remain seated and put his hands behind him. He slowly started to rise up. I didn't think much of it, thought he didn't hear me. He hit me in the neck and grabbed me in a bear hug and shoved me off to the side of the road. I hit my head on a rock and was almost unconscious before three people pulled him off me. He turned out to be an escapee from a halfway house in Kansas City. It wasn't in the computer yet".

The largest drug bust in the history of the Patrol occurred on February 25, 1988. Corporal Matt Brown, Troop D, confiscated more than 200 pounds of cocaine worth nearly \$11 million in southwest Missouri. Cpl. Brown was working traffic and stopped a driver in a station wagon on Interstate 44 for speeding. He received permission from the driver to search the car and found 89 plastic-wrapped bricks of almost pure cocaine stuffed inside three bags and a suitcase. The cocaine, weighing 225 pounds, had an estimated street value of \$10.8 million. The driver and a passenger were arrested.

Commercial motor vehicle enforcement has played a major role in the development of the Patrol. In a pilot program in conjunction with the Federal Department of Highway Administration, Troop D's weigh station at Joplin on Interstate 44 was equipped with four fully marked, federally approved concrete safety inspection lanes. An electronic height detector was installed, also. These lanes allowed inspectors to perform safer, more rigorous truck inspections.

On April 15, 1989, Trooper Jimmie E. Linegar and Trooper Allen D. Hines were conducting a traffic check on Missouri Highway 86 at the U.S. Highway 65 junction in Taney County. It was early afternoon. While checking a motorist, a radio check revealed a possible hit for a weapons violation warrant on an alias name of Matthew Mark Samuels (David Tate), a member of the Aryan nation. Tpr. Linegar was not convinced the hit was valid but told Tpr. Hines, and they started back toward the van. Tate was armed with a Mac 11 with a silencer and a 30-round clip. He fired out the right window at Tpr. Hines. He then rolled out the driver's door and shot Tpr. Linegar. Tate went to finish Tpr. Hines, who rolled under the van and returned fire, striking Tate. Tate fled into the woods. Tpr. Linegar died at the scene. Tate was captured on April 20, after an extensive manhunt. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Tpr. Hines was treated for three gunshot wounds and released the next day. He would retire as a sergeant on May 1, 2001.

On February 8, 1987, Trooper Russell W. Harper stopped a vehicle near the intersection of US 60 and Greene County Farm Road 189. Glennon Paul Sweet, who was wanted on drug and weapon offenses, was driving the vehicle. Sweet had traveled north about 50 yards before he stopped. Sweet exited with an automatic weapon and riddled Tpr. Harper's patrol car. Tpr. Harper was killed instantly, while still seated in his patrol car. Sweet fled the scene. He was later captured on February 10, while hiding in an attic in a residence in Springfield. Sweet was put to death by the state of Missouri in April 1998. Major Morris E. Patrick, Lieutenant Robert Bloomberg, Sergeant Alan Raetz, and retired Captain Jack L. Merritt served as witnesses to the execution.

Governor John Ashcroft named Trooper Jack R. McMullin, Troop D, the May 1989 State Employee of the Month. Tpr. McMullin was recognized for his outstanding efforts in drug interdiction. Specifically, in November 1988, Tpr. McMullin was responsible for the arrest of two individuals attempting to transport more than 1,100 pounds of cocaine. This was the second largest highway interdiction of cocaine in the nation to date. Governor Ashcroft also mentioned Tpr. McMullin's "routine" traffic stops led to at least 22 arrests, the seizure of more than 600 pounds of marijuana, 24 firearms, and more than \$188,000 in 1988.

On October 6, 1993, Patrol pilot, Corporal Mark A. Tovar, and passenger, Sergeant Tim R. Selvey, were in a helicopter crash at the Cassville Airport during a marijuana eradication operation. The crash occurred when mounting bolts failed and tail rotor control was lost. Sgt. Selvey received a Valor Award for saving Cpl. Tovar's life during the incident.

On September 16, 1994, Corporal Bobbie J. Harper was shot "sniper style" by Timothy Thomas Coombs as he stood in his kitchen. This was in retaliation for an earlier arrest by Cpl. Harper. Cpl. Harper retired February 1, 1995. Coombs remains at large.

In December 1995, Troop D's Satellite Crime Laboratory moved into a newly renovated building.

On February 12, 1996, Corporal Rex B. Kaunley and Trooper Darren S. Call, of the Troop D Special Emergency Response Team (SERT), were injured in a gun battle between SERT and a 73-year-old man in Ozark County. SERT had been activated at the request of the Ozark County sheriff, after the man had shot and injured one of his deputies. Deputies believed the man had tried to set fire to a neighbor's house. Members of SERT established a command post near Theodosia, MO, and were securing the area when they spotted the suspect. After being told to drop his weapon, the man turned and opened fire on the officers, who returned fire. Cpl. Kaunley suffered a wound to his thigh and Tpr. Call received a scalp wound. The suspect died in the exchange.

In July 1997, the first Drugfire hit from a pistol being seized occurred after a routine traffic stop by Trooper James L. Musche. The weapon had been used in a drive-by shooting in Newton County a year earlier. This led to a confession by the suspect of that crime, who was also the driver at the time of Tpr. Musche's traffic stop.

On October 15, 1997, the Major Crash Investigation Unit was formed.

In 1999, Troop D hosted the first Community Alliance Program (CAP). This program familiarized participants with Patrol operations and procedures through recruit-style classroom training, practical exercises, and personal interaction with members and employees of the Patrol. The CAP has seen tremendous success since then.

On June 1, 2001, Roger D. Stottlemire was appointed superintendent of the Patrol. He served as Troop D's captain from September 1, 1995, to April 30, 1998.

Several Troop D employees were honored for their actions in 2001. At the annual banquet in 2002, The MASTERS presented its Public Service Award to Cpl. Mark D. Green for his tireless efforts to raise money for Special Olympics. His efforts raised nearly \$10,000 for the organization in 2001.

Trooper Walter L. Burr was given a Lifesaving Award for his actions on June 29, 2001. Tpr. Burr was on routine patrol when he located a vehicle in a Joplin municipal park. The vehicle was running, and he observed a flexible dryer hose attached to both the tail pipe and the passenger compartment. Tpr. Burr requested assistance and then opened the doors to the vehicle. The occupant began to revive. A suicide note was found in the vehicle. Medical personnel arrived and transported the individual to the hospital. Tpr. Burr's observation and quick actions saved a man's life.

On June 1, 2001, Corporal Donald M. Ivie responded to a request for assistance from the Webster County Sheriff's Department. He arrived at a residence where an

intoxicated, suicidal subject was armed with a handgun and had shot into the air after officers arrived. Cpl. Ivie decided to circle the residence and look for a good observation point. He remained in constant contact with the other troopers and eventually made his way into the basement of the residence. Cpl. Ivie observed the man from the basement stairway. At one point, the subject returned to the front deck of his residence, sat down, and placed his weapon next to him. Another trooper relayed this information to Cpl. Ivie. Cpl. Ivie then ran across the living room, out the front door, and tackled the man before he could reach his weapon. The subject was taken into custody. The Patrol presented a 2001 Meritorious Citation to Cpl. Ivie at its annual awards banquet in 2002.

On August 7, 2002, Sergeant David A. Callaway, Troop D pilot, and Sergeant Matthew K. Funderburk, Troop D criminal interdiction zone, planned to begin their tour of duty by observing marijuana growing operations from a Patrol helicopter. Shortly after taking off from Springfield Downtown Airport, a bolt in the tail rotor failed, causing the tail rotor and gearbox to shear off the helicopter. Sgt. Callaway maneuvered the damaged aircraft away from the heavy traffic on U.S. Highway 65 and avoided a large church and 3M facility near it. Also near the crash site was Pure-Flo Precision Stainless Industries. Approximately 350 people worked at these industries. The crash of the helicopter seriously injured both Sgt. Callaway and Sgt. Funderburk, who were transported to St. John's Hospital. Due to Sgt. Callaway's flying ability and heroic actions, which prevented more people from being injured, the Patrol awarded him a Meritorious Citation at its annual award ceremony in May 2003.

Also at the annual awards banquet, Captain John T. Prine was named 2002 Officer of the Year. He was nominated for his management of Troop D, including reorganization of the troop, development of interagency relationships, energy, dedication, and loyalty.

In December 2003, Trooper Kelsey J. Rutledge and Corporal Mark C. Mason were northbound on Missouri Highway 43 in Barton County during an investigation. They observed a red pickup traveling above the posted speed limit. They made a traffic stop. Upon contacting the driver, it was apparent that he was in great distress. The driver was in pain, clutching his chest, reaching for a bottle of nitroglycerin pills. After calling for an ambulance, the officers decided they needed to transport the man. They met the ambulance east of Lamar. Cpl. Mason drove the ambulance, so the paramedics could help the man. Later, the man was airlifted to St. John's Hospital to undergo heart surgery. For their lifesaving actions, the Patrol awarded Tpr. Rutledge and Cpl. Mason a 2003 Lifesaving Award.

On September 19, 2003, Trooper Robert C. Savage overheard radio traffic from the El Dorado Springs Police Department to the Cedar County Sheriff's Office requesting assistance. Because he was close to the location, Tpr. Savage responded. When he arrived, he found a four-month-old child who had stopped breathing. Tpr. Savage cleared the child's airway and performed CPR until medical personnel arrived. For his actions, the Patrol awarded Tpr. Savage a 2003 Lifesaving Award.

On December 7, 2004, a memorial honoring Tpr. Vic O. Dosing was placed near where he was murdered near Galloway, MO. His three daughters, Jo Ann, Janet Lee, and Vicki Ona, attended the ceremony.

Trooper Clinton S. Mason saved the life of a 17-year-old man who became trapped between a culvert and a boat in Butler Creek, south of Noel, MO. The young man and two friends had attempted to retrieve a paddleboat swept downstream by floodwaters. When the young man became trapped, one friend held his head above water as the other went for help. Tpr. Mason and McDonald County deputies arrived and entered the swift current. After 30 minutes, they were able to pull the man from the water. He recovered fully. For his actions, Tpr. Mason was awarded a 2004 Lifesaving Citation at the May 2005 annual awards banquet.

Sergeant Dale B. Hemphill also received a 2004 Lifesaving Citation. He stopped for dinner at Smith's Restaurant in Collins, MO. Another patron began to choke and Sgt. Hemphill used the Heimlich maneuver to save his life.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor J. David Brooks and Commercial Vehicle Officer Ricky L. Talbert were named 2005 Civilians of the Year for their success in drug interdiction while performing their duties. The citation read in part, "Their knowledge of the transportation industry, commercial vehicle laws and regulations, and criminal behavior results in tons of illegal drugs being removed from Missouri's highways each year, preventing it from being dispersed in our nation's neighborhoods. In 2005, they were directly involved in ten major drug interdictions, and responsible for seizing over 9,763 pounds of marijuana, 15 kilos of cocaine, and \$70,000". The award was presented at the annual awards banquet in May 2006.

On August 18, 2005, while reconstructing an accident on Interstate 44, Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro was struck by an SUV driven by a resident of Oklahoma. Cpl. Sampietro was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries a short time later. The driver of the SUV was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter. This incident, along with other similar incidents around the state involving emergency personnel, raised awareness of the "Move Over" campaign [The Move Over law became effective on August 28, 2002. The law states drivers must—when possible—change lanes away from emergency vehicles with lights activated where emergency personnel are working on the shoulders of the roadways. If changing lanes is not possible, drivers are required to reduce their speed].

Due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast, Missouri's State Emergency Management Agency received a request for assistance from its counterpart in Mississippi. A detail of 56 personnel (eight members and one communications employee from Troop D) left Missouri on September 9, 2005. Members of the detail provided security, restricted access in areas where heavy equipment was attempting to clear debris, assisted residents as they searched for what used to be their home and personal belongings, and assisted at Red Cross distribution centers. Members of the detail were greatly affected by the amount of devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The Patrol served and protected citizens in the state of Mississippi admirably. All employees returned to Missouri on September 17, 2005. The detail, dubbed "Show-Me Relief", based operations in Biloxi, Mississippi. This was the first time the Patrol had assisted with an out-of-state catastrophe of this kind.

On December 25, 2005, Corporal S. Matthew Patterson responded to a shooting in rural McDonald County. A domestic dispute had turned violent when a female shot her husband with a .38-caliber handgun. Afterward, the husband made his way to a neighbor's home and called the McDonald County Sheriff's Office. Cpl. Patterson was one of the officers who responded to a call for assistance. He located the suspect, who had placed a pistol to her head in an apparent suicide attempt. Cpl. Patterson remained calm and repeatedly gave her commands, finally talking her into dropping the handgun. She was then taken into custody. Cpl. Patterson received a Meritorious Citation for his actions at the annual Patrol awards banquet in May 2006.

DPS Director Mark S. James named Corporal Bradley S. Bearden, Troop D, DPS Employee of the Month for March 2006. The recognition came because of Cpl. Bearden's looking beyond the initial traffic stop. When he checked the two ATVs, and found they were stolen, he arrested the two men driving them. Further questioning led him to \$40,000 in stolen property, thus solving several thefts and burglaries.

Also at the May 2006 awards banquet, Mrs. Jennifer Sampietro accepted a Memorial Award on behalf of her husband, Cpl. Jay Sampietro.

The number of CDL retests required in 2006, due to the closing of a third-party testing site in Troop D, caused driver examiners to log many hours of overtime to relieve the backlog of appointments. A supervisory position was added at the current Carthage CDL testing site where a new facility broke ground in 2006 with an anticipated completion date of June 2007.

Troop D Radio personnel continued their high standards of excellence in service and dedication to the citizens of Missouri by fielding emergency and non-emergency phone calls and operating the Patrol's radio communications network on three channels. In addition to high demands placed on personnel at the front desk and in the radio room, radio personnel served in other support functions as well. Four participated in SWAT operations. A vehicle was outfitted specifically for SWAT communications and operated by Troop D Radio personnel. Troop D has one person assigned with primary training duties and four assisting in support functions. In 2006, Troop D Radio personnel provided MULES training to 159 students and MDT access training to 136 officers.

On October 25, 2006, Mrs. Jennifer Sampietro, her sons, Matt and Will, joined family, friends, and members of the Patrol at Troop D. The gathering was to celebrate the dedication of a portion of Interstate 44 as the Cpl. Jay Sampietro Memorial Highway.

In 2007, a new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) test site was constructed in Jasper County. The new facility is conveniently located on U.S. Highway 71, south of the Troop D Service Center. It boasts an indoor pre-trip inspection bay, large lot for testing, and is spacious for applicants and inspectors.

Criminal interdiction has been a mainstay in Troop D for many years, and 2009 was no different. Officers seized over 4,300 pounds of marijuana, 204 pounds of cocaine, and 23 pounds of methamphetamine.

In May 2009, the new Branson Airport opened with an air show, which drew crowds between 40,000 to 50,000 people. Participants included the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, U.S. Army Golden Knights, and the Aeroshell Aerobatic Team.

Troop D hosted the first Patrol sponsored "Church Security Seminar" in Springfield, MO. The seminar consisted of Patrol employees training approximately 100 area church personnel in self defense, tactical verbal skills, and lessons learned from past church incidents. The guest speaker was Captain Brad Wells from the Madison County Sheriff's Department in Illinois. Captain Wells was an investigator at the First Baptist Church shooting in Maryville, IL, where the pastor was killed by a lone gunman.

Much of Missouri, including the Troop D region, was affected by flooding in 2009. The annual National Motocross Races were scheduled in Galena, MO, for October, but were postponed due to flooding. Several spectators and participants had to be rescued due to the rising waters of the James River and rapidly deteriorating conditions. The race was rescheduled for later in the month without any problems.

In October, Trooper J. Michael Linegar transferred from Troop C, St Louis, to Troop D, and was assigned to Stone County. Tpr. Linegar's father, Trooper Jimmie E. Linegar, was assigned to Stone County in 1985, when he was slain on duty while conducting a traffic stop.

College of The Ozarks has a rich history of hosting guest speakers from around the world. In December 2009, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin visited the College of The Ozarks campus in Branson, MO. Gov. Palin gave a rousing speech to a receptive audience, and three WWII veterans were recognized by the College for their bravery and service to our country. Ten members of Troop D assisted with security for the event.

In April 2010, Trooper Kenneth R. "Kenny" Sanders was honored at Troop D Headquarters by the Jasper/Newton counties chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his tenacity in arresting drunk drivers. Colonel Ron K. Replogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, along with representatives from MADD presented the award to Tpr. Sanders.

During the summer months, Operation Safe Ride was conducted in the Joplin area in conjunction with the Joplin Police Department and the Jasper County Sheriff's Office. Several officers from each agency, along with the Patrol's helicopter, directed their efforts toward promoting and enforcing motorcycle safety. The initiative netted several violations including speed, careless and imprudent driving, impaired driving, and several warrant arrests.

Missouri State University, in Springfield, played host to the Missouri Special Olympics for the previous three years and 2010 was no different. Thousands of athletes from all over the state converged to compete with others and be cheered by all. Col. Replogle, Captain Juan O. Villanueva, and a host of troopers and other law enforcement personnel were on hand for opening ceremonies and to award medals throughout the event.

In September, a new Patrol crime laboratory, adjacent to the Troop D Service Center, south of Carthage, was completed and began accepting evidence. Law enforcement agencies from across southwest Missouri submitted a variety of evidence for analysis to the new lab. Prior to the opening of the new lab, evidence had to be submitted to the Patrol lab in Springfield.

On a cold night in December 2010, the Branson Belle ran aground during an excursion on Table Rock Lake with 600 passengers on board. The Missouri State Water Patrol, Missouri State Highway Patrol, first responders, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and the United States Coast Guard worked together to rescue them. Passengers and crew members of the Branson Belle spent 19 hours on the vessel before being rescued.

The Water Patrol merger on January 1, 2011, resulted in 18 marine operations troopers, including three staff officers, added to the Troop D manpower.

In 2011, Patrol personnel responded to an unprecedented six major disasters in the state, including an EF-5 tornado, which struck southwest Missouri, in Troop D. On Sunday, May 22, 2011, at approximately 4:41 p.m., the cities of Joplin and Duquesne were struck by the multiple-vortex tornado which took 161 lives and was expected to top \$2 billion in insurance payouts. Patrol personnel from Troop D, and throughout the state, assisted in the search/recovery efforts, and provided security and traffic control for weeks following the incident. Troopers assigned to the Joplin area were among the first rescuers on scene and were instrumental in helping to evacuate patients from St. John's Hospital.

Traffic fatalities in Troop D decreased by nearly 34 percent in 2011, when compared to the previous year. This reduction led the state in 2011, when there were the fewest deaths on Missouri roadways since 1949. In addition to regular patrol duties, aggressive enforcement projects and driver education played a vital role in this decrease.

In April 2011, The Patrol honored three Troop D employees at the Patrol's annual awards ceremony and the MASTERS' banquet in Columbia. Lieutenant Terry R. Moore was presented the Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer of the Year Award. CDL Exam. Aud. Daniel L. Boyd and Driver Examiner Supervisor Linda A. Bradley accepted the Patrol's Lifesaving Award. Additionally, MADD recognized Trooper John L. Mason and Trooper Kenneth R. Sanders for their continued efforts of removing drunk drivers from Missouri's roadways.

In November 2011, Troopers Kelsey J. Rutledge and Darwin R. Hukill followed up on a tip from a concerned citizen related to suspicious activity at a residence in the city of Lockwood in Dade County. As a result of the initial investigation and subsequent follow-up work by the Rural Crimes Investigative Unit and local law enforcement agencies, approximately \$100,000 worth of stolen items from residential and commercial burglaries was recovered. The recovery, to date, has cleared over 20 theft cases in seven counties in southwest Missouri and one county in southeast Kansas.

During the 2011 marijuana eradication season, 209 sinsemilla plants and another 509 cultivated plants were eradicated in Troop D. In addition to the cultivated plants, eight pounds of processed marijuana were confiscated. In 2012, 28 cases were investigated and 31 people were charged with 40 offenses. During those investigations, 26 weapons were seized. 2012's results were a direct result of the members' dedication and commitment to aggressive investigations. Those members applied their investigative skills when plants were located, and through diligent efforts, criminal cases were made.

Storms throughout Troop D once again dominated the news in early 2012. On February 29, severe storms killed one person, injured dozens of others, and damage was reported in Barton, Barry, Stone, Taney, Cedar, Dallas, and Hickory counties. One of the hardest hit areas was Branson, where an EF-2 tornado damaged property along Highway 76 (Country Music Boulevard). Troopers worked with other emergency responders assisting victims and later were assigned to assist with traffic control for utility crews.

Troopers Kelsey J. Rutledge and Darwin R. Hukill were selected as Department of Public Safety Employees of the Month for April 2012. Eleven troopers assigned to Troop D were honored to receive the Patrol's Lifesaving Award at The MASTERS banquet in Columbia, MO. Trooper W. Sean Lashmet was recognized for his outstanding service when he was an honorable mention for the 3M Looking Beyond the License Plate Award at the International Association of Chiefs of Police ceremony in San Diego, CA, in October 2012.

On May 20, 2012, a contingent of over 80 troopers and communications personnel were assigned to the campus of Missouri Southern State University in Joplin to assist with security and escort duty for a visit from President Barak Obama. President Obama spoke at the Joplin High School graduation in conjunction with a remembrance of the one-year anniversary of the devastating tornado that destroyed many parts of the Joplin area and killed 161 people.

During the summer months of 2012, high temperatures and draught spawned several brush and grass fires in southwest Missouri. Most notably were fires in Christian, Polk, Lawrence, and Newton counties, which burned several hundred acres. Troopers assisted with the closing of roads, rerouting traffic, and Troop D Pilot Sergeant Daniel P. Wohnoutka assisted firefighters and law enforcement in directing resources based on observation from the air. One fire in Newton County forced the closure of Missouri Highway 59, north of Diamond, MO, for eight hours.

In September 2012, troopers responded to a plane crash in Greene County, north of Willard, MO, which claimed the lives of five Springfield residents. In addition to securing the scene, troopers assigned to the Major Crash Investigation Unit assisted federal authorities by completing a forensic map of the crash site. Personnel also responded and assisted in November 2012, with another fatal plane crash in Lawrence County, west of Stotts City, MO, which claimed the life of a Neosho, MO, man.

Changes to the scale houses (eastbound and westbound) in Newton County, west of Joplin, were made in the fall 2012. Remodeling of the interior of both buildings

enhanced security measures and created a more functional work environment. In addition, each scale house was closed for about four weeks while crews replaced framework and concrete for the weighing pads.

The year also brought about the return of Lieutenant Albert O. Brown from his deployment with the United States Army to Afghanistan.

Troop D finished 2012 with a 50 percent reduction in the number of boating fatalities and a 33 percent reduction in drownings, compared with 2011.

The members and employees of Troop D continued to commit themselves to providing efficient and effective law enforcement services dedicated to enforcement of traffic, marine operations, and criminal laws throughout the 18-county Troop D region. Specifically, seat belt enforcement continues to be a top priority. In 2013, through strict enforcement efforts and safety initiatives, Troop D officers recorded 15,902 seat belt citations, a 15 percent increase from the previous year. In addition to enforcement efforts, Troop D experienced a significant increase in the number of requests for commercial vehicle escorts. Members escorted 191 over-dimension loads throughout the state, an increase of 240 percent compared to 2012.

On May 6, 2013, Corporal Rob Savage was conducting stationary traffic enforcement on Interstate 44, at the 96.4-mile marker, in Webster County. At approximately 6:40 p.m., he observed a blue pickup truck driving eastbound at a high rate of speed on Interstate 44 near his location. Cpl. Savage initiated a traffic stop of the vehicle, which included an adult, male driver and a 14-year-old female passenger. The passenger was later identified as a missing juvenile from Springfield, MO. After further investigation, it was revealed the juvenile had met the driver earlier that morning on an Internet website. They made arrangements for the driver to come to Springfield and pick her up, luring her back to St. Louis, MO, to be involved in his prostitution ring. Cpl. Savage's superior investigative and interrogation skills clearly aided in the immediate apprehension of a criminal and a threat to society, in addition to removing a child from harm's way.

On August 19, 2013, at approximately 5:30 p.m., officers with the Barton County Sheriff's Office responded to the reported disappearance of a 12-year-old girl from Golden City, MO. She was last seen getting into a vehicle near Hazel Park in Golden City. Approximately an hour and a half after the reported abduction, Trooper Justin D. LeeMasters stopped a blue Ford Expedition in Golden City. The vehicle and registration matched the description of the vehicle used in the abduction. The driver was detained and questioned. After an investigation by the Patrol and the Southwest Missouri Major Case Squad, charges were filed against the driver for the disappearance and subsequent death of the young girl. Through diligence and perseverance, Tpr. LeeMasters' observation of the suspect vehicle aided in the immediate apprehension of a criminal and a threat to society.

Troop D concluded the year with the seventh Annual Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr., Toy Drive. The drive is a cooperative effort between the Patrol, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and the Children's Miracle Network of Cox Health. It has proven to be a great way to honor Cpl. Sampietro, who died in the line of duty in 2005, and is designed

to brighten the holiday for children forced to spend the Christmas season in the hospital. Troopers personally delivered all donated toys to children in the Cox Health Pediatric Unit, in Springfield, during the month of December.

On January 3, 2014, troopers responded to an airplane after it landed in Eastern Taney County near Forsyth, MO, in Bull Shoals Lake. Two men in a 1960 Piper single-engine airplane were flying to Texas when the pilot experienced mechanical problems and had to land in the water. Both men escaped the aircraft and swam to shore, having suffered only minor injuries. Troopers later assisted with recovery efforts when the plane was removed on January 10.

On January 12, 2014, the pilot of a Southwest Airlines 737 mistakenly landed at M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport near Branson, MO, instead of the intended destination of the Branson Airport to the southeast. Despite landing on the 3,738-foot runway as opposed to the desired 7,140-foot runway, no injuries were reported and there was no damage to the aircraft or runway. Troopers assisted with checking on passengers and securing the aircraft overnight. They also assisted with traffic control around the airport as the aircraft, void of passengers, took off the next day and continued to Dallas, Texas.

On February 4, 2014, Trooper Kotter J. Kasischke overheard traffic from the McDonald County Sheriff's Office regarding the strong-armed robbery of a convenience store on Missouri Route O at the Oklahoma state line. The suspect had robbed the store and stolen the store clerk's car. Initially traveling into Oklahoma, the suspect then traveled back into Missouri. Following a short pursuit, Tpr. Kasischke took the suspect into custody behind a residence in Southwest City, MO.

The annual Patrol Awards and The MASTERS Banquet took place in Columbia, MO, on April 12, 2014, and four employees assigned to Troop D were honored. Trooper Zackery K. Bryan accepted the Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer of the Year Award; Civilian of the Year was presented to Automotive Technician III Tyson C. Getman. Corporal Thomas L. Hall was one of eight employees to receive the Lifesaving Award; Trooper John L. Mason accepted the Career Milestone award for surpassing 1,000 career driving while intoxicated arrests.

From June 6-8, 2014, the Patrol provided on-site security and traffic assistance for the inaugural PGA Champions Tour, Legends of Golf Tournament taking place in the Branson, MO, area. Troopers were tasked with security at both Top of the Rock and Buffalo Ridge golf courses south of Branson as marquis golfers on the Champions Tour vied for a \$2.75 million purse.

In a weeklong salute to law enforcement, the inaugural America's Hometown Heroes took place in Branson from June 13 to June 21. Among the events troopers helped plan or attended were opening ceremonies, a golf tournament held at Point Royale, a police motorcycle rodeo competition, 5K run, and a shooting competition.

On September 25, 2014, the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation presented marine operations troopers in Troop D with a generous donation of 200 life jackets. The Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit based organization in Branson, in

conjunction with the State Park Marina, donated the life jackets to enhance water safety on Missouri's lakes and rivers. In addition, other items supplied by the foundation included voltage meters to test electric currents in and around docks, and an underwater camera system to assist troopers in search and recovery efforts.

On October 3, 2014, approximately 40 troopers, along with local law enforcement personnel, provided event security and route coverage during a visit to Joplin, MO, by Vice President Joe Biden. Vice President Biden was in Joplin for the dedication ceremony of the new Joplin High School & Franklin Technology Center. The new combined vocational and high school replaced the original buildings destroyed by the May 2011 tornado.

Troop D concluded the year with the eighth Annual Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr. Toy Drive. The drive remains a cooperative effort between Patrol, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and the Children's Miracle Network of Cox Health.

A rescue from an ice-covered lake, along with swift water rescues throughout Troop D, dominated the news in 2015. On January 6, Troopers Brandon L. Butler, Timothy V. Mosley, and Robert W. Garrett successfully rescued two women trapped in a small paddleboat on an ice-covered lake in Dallas County. On July 7, 2015, Sergeant Terry G. Sanders and Corporal Michael P. McClure successfully rescued a woman whose vehicle was swept off Animal Safari Road in Taney County. On December 26, 2015, four life-saving rescues were made. Trooper Reese E. Douthett successfully rescued two people who were swept off Missouri Route P in Polk County. Troopers Matthew R. Young and Reese E. Douthett successfully rescued a man from his partially submerged tractor trailer on Missouri Route H in Polk County. Cpl. McClure and Trooper Andrew B. Ward successfully rescued a man whose vehicle was swept off County Road 1150 in Lawrence County. Tpr. Ward successfully rescued two people who were trapped in their home in Pierce City in Lawrence County. On December 27, three life-saving rescues were made. Cpl. McClure and Troopers Ronny L. Mast and Ward successfully rescued a man whose vehicle was swept off County Road 1180 in Lawrence County. Corporal David H. Brown and Tpr. Garrett successfully rescued a man who was swept off Missouri Route 215 in Polk County. Cpl. McClure and Troopers W. Schawnn Fogler and Darwin R. Hukill successfully rescued two elderly women and eight firefighters who were trapped in a residence near McDowell, MO, in Barry County. Unfortunately, six lives were lost in Troop D as a result of the flooding events.

At approximately 12:23 p.m. on January 29, 2015, troopers stopped an eastbound 2008 Isuzu straight truck and conducted a commercial motor vehicle compliance inspection near the 84-mile marker of Interstate 44 in Greene County. Suspicious circumstances led to the officers requesting and receiving consent to search the vehicle. A roadside search revealed 36 boxes and five duffle bags of marijuana weighing approximately 840 pounds located inside the truck. The driver, a 56-year-old male subject from Glendale, CA, was taken into custody.

In 2015, Troop D and the Springfield Police Department hosted Missouri's first-ever National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) CEO seminar in Springfield. Additionally, two NCMEC Missing Children: Dynamics and Response Training courses

were offered throughout the year. Thus, over 250 police chiefs, command staff, sheriffs, communication operators, officers, and investigators received excellent training regarding missing children and the response of law enforcement in these cases. The attendees also learned how to improve relationships with the media, develop a law enforcement strategy, and perform a community self-assessment.

Five Troop D officers were honored at the Patrol Annual Awards & The MASTERS Banquet held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO. Corporals David H. Brown and Todd A. Hadlock and Troopers Robert W. Garrett, Adam W. Poulson, and Evan L. Tyrrell all received Lifesaving awards for their heroic efforts in 2015.

Additionally, Cpl. Brown and Tpr. Garrett accepted Missouri Medal of Valor awards from Governor Jay Nixon. Cpl. Brown and Tpr. Garrett accepted medals for their bravery and expertise when rescuing a stranded man after a flash flood near the Missouri Highway 251 bridge over the Pomme de Terre River in Polk County in December 2015. The incident occurred at approximately 2 a.m. on Dec. 27, 2015, as Missouri was experiencing record rainfall and flooding. Cpl. Brown and Tpr. Garrett responded to a call for a man clinging to a tree in the flooded Pomme De Terre River. The man had attempted to cross a bridge in Polk County on foot and was swept away. With no sign of the flood victim and his cries for help as their only guide, a jet boat was launched, operated by Tpr. Garrett, with Cpl. Brown using a spotlight to search a tree line for the victim. Eventually locating the victim in a tree about 10 feet above the swift-moving floodwater, Tpr. Garrett tactically maneuvered the boat through the turbulent water to the tree. Wet and hypothermic, the man slipped as he started to climb down. Unable to see him, Cpl. Brown immediately dropped prone in the bow of the boat and reached both arms down in the roiling floodwater. He got hold of an arm and the man's hair. The victim was devoid of strength and being pulled under by the current, but Cpl. Brown got him into the boat and Tpr. Garrett maneuvered it back to the safety of the shore. Cpl. Brown and Tpr. Garrett worked as a team using skill, decisiveness, and bravery to overcome perilous circumstances and save the flood victim's life. Gov. Nixon presented the medals on November 28, 2016.

An increase in traffic crash fatalities dominated the news across the state in 2016. However, southwest Missouri experienced a reduction in traffic crash fatalities of nearly 12 percent. Statistics regularly indicate alcohol and drugs as major contributing factors to these crashes. The members of Troop D focused their efforts enforcing impaired driving laws, amassing a total of 1,358 alcohol- and drug-related driving offenses. Specifically, Trooper Ryan L. Hutton led the state by making 138 driving while intoxicated arrests.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators honored Corporal Michael P. McClure as the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. On May 18, 2016, Cpl. McClure was recognized for his outstanding performance and achievements in the field of boating safety, education, and innovation, and for his past heroic efforts. Cpl. McClure continues to excel in the field of boating safety and is no doubt directly responsible for ensuring the safety of countless numbers of water enthusiasts in southwest Missouri.

On October 23, citizens completed the 2016 Troop D Community Alliance Program at an awards ceremony and dinner held in Springfield, MO. The guest speaker for the evening was retired Colonel Ron K. Repogle. Participants also had an opportunity to listen to a presentation about The MASTERS from retired Captain Jack L. Merritt and Mr. Jamie Holstein. The program began on September 6, 2016, and participants met on consecutive Tuesday evenings. They became more familiar with Patrol operations and procedures through classroom training, practical exercises, and personal interaction with Patrol employees. Some of the topics included: traffic stops, crash investigation, firearms familiarization, marine operations, canine, and criminal investigation. Twenty-eight officers and employees served as guest instructors.

Troop D experienced substantial rain in the spring 2017. The last week of April into the first week of May turned disastrous as major flooding plagued southwest Missouri. Some communities sustained substantial damage to roadways and structures, and one drowning was reported. From April 28 through May 2, in just under 89 hours, troopers responded to 36 calls for service related to persons or vehicles in the water. At least 118 people were rescued by responding emergency personnel during this weather event.

On Wednesday, August 30, President Donald J. Trump visited the Loren Cook Company in Springfield. One hundred forty-two troopers and two commercial vehicle officers joined the Springfield Police Department, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, the Springfield Fire Department, and the United States Secret Service in providing route and site security for the president. Streets and highways were closed as the presidential motorcade made its way from the Springfield airport to the Loren Cook Company. Supporters and protestors alike lined many Springfield streets while the president was in town. Demonstrations remained peaceful and the president's visit was concluded without any major incidents.

On September 16, 2017, while assisting the St. Louis Police Department with the social unrest after the Stockley verdict, Corporal Mark C. Mason, Troop D, and Sergeant John S. Ashby, Q/DDCC, responded to a call for assistance after a Chevrolet Trailblazer had almost struck a patrol vehicle on the shoulder of Interstate 64. The vehicle then struck a median wall, took an exit, and struck another median wall before coming to rest. As the subject was placed on the grass in the process of being arrested, Cpl. Mason and Sgt. Ashby arrived. Cpl. Mason recognized the driver's breathing was shallow and he was becoming unresponsive. Sgt. Ashby positioned the driver and performed a head tilt, and Cpl. Mason administered rescue breaths. When it was determined the driver was under the influence of heroin, Narcan was requested. Cpl. Mason administered rescue breaths for 10 minutes, until Narcan arrived on scene and was administered. The driver awoke and became alert. Both officers accepted Patrol Lifesaving Awards at the annual The MASTERS Banquet & Patrol Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2018, as a result of their actions.

On February 4, 2018, the state of Missouri experienced a winter weather event. The National Weather Service and local meteorologists forecasted a "dusting" of snow with minor accumulation. The forecast was accurate; however, as the snow fell on the untreated road surfaces, it instantly froze and created ice-like surfaces that resulted in

extremely treacherous driving conditions. Ultimately, this "dusting" yielded the most significant chain of traffic crashes that Troop D has ever experienced. Shortly after 3 p.m., Troop D communications began receiving calls of numerous motor vehicle crashes on Interstate 44 at the 106-mile marker in Webster County. Within four minutes, 23 separate traffic crashes occurred within 1,700 feet of each other. The 23 crashes involved 65 vehicles (44 passenger vehicles, 19 commercial vehicles, one recreational vehicle, one firetruck) and resulted in one fatality and 27 injured. Both eastbound lanes of Interstate 44 were blocked for approximately 13 hours.

The sinking of a "Ride the Ducks" vessel on Table Rock Lake dominated local and national news in 2018. On the evening of July 19, 2018, Troop D communications were notified of an emergency involving a duck boat loaded with 31 people on Table Rock Lake near the Branson Belle. A severe storm had erupted in the Branson area, and two duck boats were on the lake loaded with passengers and crew. Marine and road troopers began responding to the area along with local law enforcement and area emergency services personnel as the storm increased. As the vessels took on water, the captains attempted to reach the launch ramp. One boat made it safely to shore as the second continued to take on water and eventually sank. Of the 29 passengers and two crew members aboard the lost vessel, 16 passengers and one crew member perished; 14 survived. Nine fatalities were from a single family and none of the passengers or crew were wearing life jackets at the time of the incident. Troop D troopers along with Patrol Dive Team members worked for days with local and federal authorities aiding in the investigation and subsequent recovery of the vessel and missing victims.

On September 21, 2018, approximately 95 troopers along with the United States Secret Service and local law enforcement provided event security and route coverage during a visit to Springfield, MO, by President Donald Trump. President Trump was in Springfield for an event at the John Q. Hammons Arena located on the campus of Missouri State University.

On October 8, 2018, approximately 39 troopers and two commercial vehicle officers along with the United States Secret Service and local law enforcement provided event security and route coverage during a visit to Springfield, MO, by Vice President Michael Pence. Vice President Pence was in Springfield for an event at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center.

The annual The MASTERS Banquet & Patrol Awards ceremony took place in Cape Girardeau, MO, on April 13, 2019. For their outstanding performance and tenacious dedication to serving and protecting Missouri's citizens in 2018, Troop D employees accepted the following awards:

CVO Supervisor I Michelle A. Horn — Superintendent's Award for Excellence in
Public Service (inaugural presentation of this award)
Trooper Travis L. Coffey — Lifesaving
Corporal Joel E. Givens — Lifesaving
Trooper Andrew B. Ward — Meritorious Service
Trooper David L. Johnson — Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer of the Year

Five Troopers, who made the ultimate sacrifice, were honored on September 7, 2019, in Neosho, MO. The Neosho Exchange Club held the ceremony at the newly erected Neosho Patriots Memorial Wall located at the intersection of Missouri Highway 59 and U.S. Highway 60. The wall honors fallen members of the U.S. armed forces, first responders, and K-9 officers who have given their life in the line of duty. Various city and county officials, local police chiefs and sheriffs, and many others attended the ceremony. Several troopers from southwest Missouri, along with Troop D staff members, attended to pay respect to the five troopers whose names were added to the wall. Sergeant Todd A. Zacher applied the names of Trooper Charles P. Corbin, Trooper Russell W. Harper, and Trooper Victor O. Dosing to the wall. Jennifer Sampietro-Zacher was in attendance and applied the name of her late husband, Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro. Trooper J. Michael Linegar placed the name of his father, Jimmie E. Linegar, on the wall. Lieutenant Jeff Johnson read the story of each trooper's sacrifice as his respective name was added to the memorial. After each name was placed, those in attendance rendered a salute.

In 2019, Corporal Robert R. Wilkins, Marine Enforcement Trooper in Zone 21, received the National Association of Boating Law Administrators "Boating Education Officer of the Year. Cpl. Wilkins, who has been assigned to a marine zone serving the Table Rock Lake area since 2016, earned this award due to his dedication to education of safe boating and outstanding service to the recreation community.

Sergeant Shane R. Monk was honored for a Career Milestone Award for arresting 1,000 intoxicated drivers on our roads and highways in his career. Sgt. Monk arrested his 1,016th DWI suspect in 2019 and was honored with this award in 2020. Sgt. Monk averaged a total of over 43 DWI arrests per year during his employment and is currently ranked fourth in the all-time 25 highest DWI arrests for a career within the patrol.

Troop D and the communities served by K-9 "Cuba" said farewell to the beloved dog in 2019. Cuba was diagnosed with terminal cancer in early 2019. Several agencies, along with the community surrounding the Branson area, conducted a surprise honor for Cuba and his handler, Trooper William R. "Ryan" Zeller by waiting in the parking lot of the veterinary clinic for Trooper Zeller and Cuba to arrive. Hundreds of people lined up to walk by Cuba for one last "pat" to tell him, "Job well done!".

2020 began with the COVID pandemic. Troopers stepped up when zone mates needed to be quarantined or needed time to recover. Troop D managed the inconveniences in spectacular fashion by providing the seamless service in which they always have.

Trooper Matthew R. Cook received the Patrol's Medal of Valor at the 2020 MASTERS Banquet for the following incident:

On the evening of January 12, 2020, a report of an intoxicated suicidal suspect, threatening to shoot law enforcement, was received by Troop D Radio. The suspect's vehicle was located by a Newton County deputy on MO 59, traveling northbound into Jasper County. The deputy began to follow the vehicle as it traveled north on I49, and into Carthage, MO. Tpr. Cook responded to the deputy's request for assistance.

Once Tpr. Cook, Trooper Benjamin R. Dodson and a Jasper County deputy were in the area behind the suspect, the suspect attempted a U-turn through a large parking lot adjacent to MO 571, in Carthage. Tpr. Cook now found himself in front of the suspect. He took this opportunity to initiate a traffic stop, which prevented the suspect from reentering the highway. Tpr. Cook activated his emergency equipment, and the suspect stopped with the two vehicles pointing toward each other.

Tpr. Cook exited his patrol vehicle, drew his assigned Glock duty pistol, and began to give verbal commands to the violator. The violator retrieved a .44 handgun from the seat of the vehicle. He extended the handgun forward, out of his driver's side window and fired on round at Tpr. Cook, seven seconds after the initial stop. Tpr. Cook saw the weapon as it was being presented and immediately moved to cover. Tpr. Cook returned accurate fire as he moved into a position of cover, near Tpr. Dodson's patrol vehicle. The suspect fired four more times through his own windshield at Tpr. Cook. One of the .44 caliber rounds struck Tpr. Cook on the front of his right hip, causing a minor injury. Tpr. Dodson and a Jasper County deputy arrived as the shots were being fired. They both returned fire toward the suspect from positions of cover. Tpr. Cook remained calm, reloaded his weapon, assessed his wound, and assisted the other officers as they approached the violator. The suspect died at the scene.

Tpr. Cook acted quickly and decisively in a life and death confrontation, preventing further injury to himself, Tpr. Dodson, and each of the deputies. His actions extended far and above the call of duty.

Beginning in February 2021, the Patrol was requested by the Governor to assist in manning mass Covid vaccination sites. Troop D's Public Information and Education officers were present at every site within the troop through the end of March providing assistance to the public seeking inoculations.

On March 12, 2021, about 11:15 a.m., the Troop D SWAT team was requested to assist the Kimberling City Police Department and Stone County Sheriff's Office with a subject who had barricaded himself in an apartment with a hostage in Kimberling City. The Troop D SWAT team established a perimeter around the apartment. Visual and verbal contact was made with the subject, and he was observed, through various windows, holding a shotgun and a handgun. He was also observed discharging a weapon randomly inside the apartment. As troopers continued to attempt negotiating, the subject began firing multiple times. One trooper discharged his firearm, and the suspect sustained a gunshot wound. The Stone County Coroner was summoned to the scene where the subject was pronounced deceased. The hostage was removed from the apartment physically unharmed.

Sergeant W.L. "Corky" Burr and Corporal Kotter J. Kasischke were named September's DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month for their selfless acts in which they rescued four individuals from flooding in McDonald County. The rescues occurred on March 13, 2021, after two days of heavy rain. Two vehicles had entered the flooded Buffalo Creek at Missouri Highway 43, and the two occupants were caught in the floodwater. One victim was clinging to a tree, the other was stranded on top of his vehicle. The McDonald County emergency management director and a volunteer firefighter launched

a boat and rescued the man clinging to the tree, but their boat's engine then failed. Sgt. Burr and Cpl. Kasischke launched an inflatable boat into the swift-moving flood water and first rescued the man on top of his vehicle. They then transferred the victim in the disabled boat into their craft and transported the man to safety on shore. The troopers then went back and used their inflatable boat to push the director's boat to where it could be secured to a tree. Sgt. Burr and Cpl. Kasischke then winched the boat out of the river and onto its trailer. Shortly after, Sgt. Burr and Cpl. Kasischke were dispatched again and rescued two more people. A man and a teenager were clinging to a tree in swift moving water after they attempted to cross a low water bridge over the Elk River.

On October 13, 2021, Troop D dedicated the Troop's Fallen Officers Memorial, which stands at the main entrance outside headquarters. Retired Lieutenant Terry R. Moore was the emcee for the event and project manager. Family and friends representing each of the memorialized members were present for the ceremony.

On December 10, 2021, Trooper Colten J. Beck was shot and injured by a subject who had led the trooper on a short pursuit in south Springfield. About 11:00 p.m. on December 10, Tpr. Beck attempted to stop Justin W. Jackman of Bolivar, MO, for a traffic violation on Republic Road. Jackman failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued. Jackman drove off road at the end of a Springfield city street, disabling the pickup he was driving. As Tpr. Beck was approaching the pickup, Jackman fired a shotgun through the driver's side window at the trooper, striking him in the face. Another trooper arrived at the scene a short time later and transported the injured member to a local hospital. Jackman fled on foot. A perimeter was established by troopers, Springfield Police officers and Greene County deputies. Jackman was later apprehended by a trooper who was manning his post on the perimeter. Jackman was taken into custody and booked into the Greene County Jail with no authorized bond. Tpr. Beck sustained injuries to his face resulting in the loss of his right eye.

Trooper Zachary T. Costley accepted the DPS Sworn Team Members of the Month award at a presentation December 28, 2021, at Troop D Headquarters. Tpr. Costley was recognized for his investigative work subsequent to a vehicle stop which thwarted a possible kidnapping.

On August 8, 2021, Tpr. Costley was on duty patrolling U.S. Highway 65 in Taney County when he observed a vehicle with expired registration. While conducting the traffic stop, the driver refused to identify himself and Zachary called for backup. Two officers arrived at the scene and Zachary advised the driver he was under arrest. The driver resisted, requiring all three officers to secure the man in handcuffs after a brief struggle. A search of the man's pockets revealed a nefarious list of items that raised Zachary's suspicion. The items included duct tape, zip ties, a bat, and a stun gun. Zachary applied for a search warrant and found some of the listed items in the vehicle. He also applied for a search warrant for the driver's cell phone and learned the man and his wife were allegedly conspiring to kidnap their children from a foster home. Home security camera footage from the foster home recorded the man recently casing the home.

On November 29, 2022, at approximately 12:20 p.m., Corporal Barrett stopped an eastbound vehicle for speeding on Interstate 44. What started as a normal traffic stop changed as Cpl. Barrett observed several occurrences of suspicious behavior and conversation. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of 170 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, three handguns, cocaine and marijuana. It is believed to be the largest seizure ever of methamphetamine in the state of Missouri. This arrest led to a nexus with a large, nation-wide cocaine trafficking organization, under investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Cpl. Barrett undoubtedly made Missouri's highways safer, as well as other communities, with this arrest. Although the true impact is unknown, a seizure of this nature impacts the safety of thousands of citizens in many states.

On January 9, 2022, Commercial Vehicle Officer Gary W. England was working at weigh station D4 East in Joplin, MO, when a traffic crash occurred just west of his location. He notified Troop D then ran to the scene, where he found one commercial vehicle was on its side and a second semi-tractor had exploded. One driver was stuck in the burning truck, and the fire had reached the cab area. CVO England used three fire extinguishers he procured from vehicles involved in the crash attempting to keep the fire away from the driver while awaiting the arrival of the fire department. While he was looking for a fourth fire extinguisher, the driver was able to move a lever, free his leg, and exit the cab. The driver was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. He survived the incident. CVO England was presented with the Patrol's Lifesaving Award because of his actions.

On September 10, 2022, Corporal Terry A. Bible responded to a crash on Interstate 44 in Lawrence County. A deputy on scene made him aware of a secondary crash and Cpl. Bible immediately redirected. The second crash involved two commercial vehicles. A man at the scene informed him a driver was stuck in the truck that was on fire. Cpl. Bible grabbed his fire extinguisher and sprinted to the burning truck. He confirmed the driver was trapped inside with his leg pinned. The exterior and rear of the cab was on fire, so Cpl. Bible used his fire extinguisher and asked others at the scene for additional fire extinguishers. He entered the cab of the truck and attempted to free the driver's leg, but was unsuccessful. The flames grew stronger, but Cpl. Bible remained with the driver and worked to remove him from the burning truck. When the fire department arrived on scene, Cpl. Bible exited the cab, ran to the firetruck, and helped pull the fire hoses to the crash site to increase the speed of the response. He also alerted the fire chief of the need for the jaws of life and secured gear from the firetruck to cover the driver to protect him from the flames. A Lawrence County deputy arrived to assist Cpl. Bible in applying pressure to the seat as the fire chief used the jaws of life. Firefighters sprayed water onto the three men with the hope of preventing serious injuries as they worked near the ever-growing flames. A second attempt with the jaws of life was successful, and the driver was removed from the cab for medical treatment. Both Cpl. Bible's and the deputy's hair was singed from their arms and head as they worked to save the driver. Cpl. Bible was awarded a Valor Award for his actions.

Corporal William S. "Sean" Lashmet, July 2023 DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month, was recognized at Troop D Headquarters for his heroic and compassionate efforts beyond the call of duty to save the life of a shooting victim.

On February 23, 2023, Cpl. Lashmet received a call for service regarding a suicidal person at the Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area. Upon his arrival, he located and attempted to contact the suicidal subject, who was seated inside a vehicle in a parking area. As Cpl. Lashmet approached the vehicle, the twenty-six-year-old female shot herself in the chest. Cpl. Lashmet took decisive action to access the victim, secure the firearm, and provide medical aid. He communicated with the trauma doctor, Brian B. Draper, via cell phone and rendered additional emergency medical aid. Additionally, Cpl. Lashmet made the decision to transport the patient in his patrol vehicle due to the unknown response time of responding medical personnel. Cpl. Lashmet transported the female subject approximately 26 miles to Mercy Hospital Springfield in 16 minutes, where emergency surgery was performed to address her injuries. The patient survived the surgery, but unfortunately later succumbed to her injuries while in the ICU. The attending doctor, Brian B. Draper, typed a report of commendation via the Patrol's website the following day praising Cpl. Lashmet for his actions during this stressful incident. In the report, Dr. Draper stated, "It is because of the Corporal's quick actions the patient had a chance of survival. Cpl. Lashmet should be commended for his compassion and resourcefulness during this difficult situation".

Corporal Eric L. Mueller of Troop D was honored with the DPS Sworn Member for the month of January for a traffic stop which led to the arrest and conviction of a subject who was in possession of child pornography.

On July 28, 2020, at approximately 6:29 a.m., Cpl. Mueller observed a white 1998 Ford F-150, pass his location, while displaying expired Missouri license plates, on westbound US-60, in Webster County, MO. After the Ford passed his location, he overtook and initiated a traffic stop on the Ford.

Through computer checks, Cpl. Mueller determined that Jones was a registered sex offender in Missouri, for possessing child pornography. Cpl. Mueller also determined that the vehicle Jones was driving was not listed on Jones' registry. Cpl. Mueller returned to the driver and questioned Jones about his phone, social media accounts and any illegal photographs. Jones, without further prompting, opened his cell phone photo gallery and displayed several images of what appeared to be under-age girls.

Cpl. Mueller arrested Jones who was later charged and convicted of felony possession of child pornography. Jones was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Note: It took approximately three years for the case to be adjudicated.

Construction of the new radio tower on the property of Troop D began and became operational in 2024. The tower was erected next to the old tower, which was dismantled. The old tower had stood since 1975.

In February 2024, Sergeant Chase A. Stallcup was responding to a vehicle crash when he was informed the driver was intoxicated, suicidal, and had a firearm. The man had

pointed the good at a Good Samaritan who had attempted to help him. When Tpr. Stallcup arrived, he entered a wooded area and contacted the suspect. Taking a defensive position, Tpr. Stallcup initiated a dialogue with the suspect, who was extremely volatile and threatened to shoot Tpr. Stallcup and himself. The suspect then pointed his gun at Tpr. Stallcup, turned around and fired one round. He then placed the pistol on the trunk of his car and approached Tpr. Stallcup with clenched fists. Tpr. Stallcup was able take the suspect into custody solely through verbal commands; he then transported him to a hospital for psychiatric care.

On April 9, 2024, an AMBER Alert was issued regarding a parental abduction. Involved in the abduction was an adult male and female and a child. Both adults had criminal records including sexual assault of a minor. Corporal James R. "Ricky" Rorie was on duty when he overheard Polk County deputies advise they were in pursuit of the suspect vehicle on a county road near MO 13. Cpl. Rorie informed Troop D Radio of the pursuit and the request for assistance. Cpl. Rorie set up near the intersection in which the pursuit was headed and observed the suspect vehicle travelling through the ditch and on to MO 13 heading north. Familiar with the information about the suspects given in the AMBER Alert, Ricky recognized the driver matching the description and began pursuit. The suspect, driving the Ford pickup, attempted to allude by changing directions and turning off onto adjacent roads at high speeds. At one point, the suspect was traveling south on MO 13 when it turned through the median and headed south in the northbound lanes. Several deputies were involved trying to stop the pursuit. Cpl. Rorie made the decision to administer a tactical vehicle intervention maneuver by forcing the suspect to lose control of the pickup. Ricky caught up to the pickup and positioned his patrol vehicle where he could intentionally strike the left rear of the suspect vehicle with the front right of his. This attempt was unsuccessful, and the pickup continued. Cpl. Rorie again was able to repeat the maneuver causing the pickup to rotate counterclockwise where it then went into the grassy median and came to a stop. The driver exited the vehicle and was taken into custody. The adult female was taken into custody after being discovered in the extended cab passenger compartment, holding the child who was safely recovered.

In September 2024, Sergeant Thomas L. "Tom" Hall was working stationary radar on I-44 in Greene County, when he observed a rented box truck traveling well over the speed limit. After stopping the vehicle, the driver claimed that he was moving his personal belongings from Arizona to Michigan. Further investigation revealed the driver had made such a trip just days earlier. The driver's statements became contradictory and suspicious.

The driver consented to a search of the truck, during which Tom found a total of 1,668 pounds of processed hydroponic marijuana in vacuum sealed bundles. It is believed to be one of the largest roadside seizures of hydroponic marijuana in Missouri, with a potential street value in excess of \$5 million. Information gathered by the Patrol linked the shipment to illegal marijuana growing operations in at least two states.

On December 3, retired Sergeant Ed Thurman was murdered by a family member on his property in Webster County. Troopers responded to the shooting scene to assist Webster County Sheriff's Office. The suspect was arrested and confessed to the crime.

Troopers from Troop D augmented the Patrol's presence for the Governor's Inauguration in Jefferson City. Governor Mike Kehoe took the reins in January 2025.

Colonel Turner's first full year at the helm and the "business speed" mantra had a positive effect in Troop D. Tactical Vehicle Intervention, or TVI, became a reality. Slowly but surely, members were being trained and bumpers attached to patrol vehicles followed. A new message was being sent to the motoring public that warned against running from a trooper. Social media became more transparent in showcasing victories of the good guys and shame walking the defiant. It appeared to be the dawning of a new and improved era for the Patrol.

In April, the Master's Banquet was held in Jefferson City. Lifesaving awards were presented to Troop D officers, Sergeant Mike Adams, Corporal Robert W. Garrett (x2), Trooper Reese E. Douthett, and Trooper Evan C. Macomber. Chief Radio Operator John D. Hamilton received the Civilian of the Year award.

On June 18, the 123rd Trooper Recruit class graduated from the Academy. Troop D welcomed Troopers Zane Moore assigned to Zone 7, and Kaley A. Ishman assigned to Zone 13.

On July 2, 2025, Motor Vehicle Inspector Cory Boatright was driving to work when he noticed a car tumble down an embankment, land on its roof, and catch fire. MVI Boatright called 911 and crossed a highway to get to the scene. He tried but could not open the car doors because of damage from the crash. Another motorist stopped and provided MVI Boatright with a fire extinguisher. As MVI Boatright fought the engine fire, he asked the motorist to look for anything that could be used to break out car windows. Other motorists stopped and pulled the victim from the vehicle. MVI Boatright checked the victim's condition and relayed information to dispatch. When the engine fire reignited, MVI Boatright used an extinguisher from an arriving Cartersville Police officer to continue fighting the fire, preventing it from spreading before the victim could be transported to a hospital. When a man was trapped in a burning, overturned vehicle, MVI Boatright acted selflessly and swiftly to assist the victim and prevented further injuries or worse. MVI Boatright was the DPS Non-Sworn Member of the Month for October.

On July 3, Corporal Antonio "Tony" Sandoval drove up on a roll over crash on I-44 near the 20mm. One of the injured, who had appeared to have been ejected onto the median, had a critical injury to her leg. Tony went back to his patrol car, retrieved a tourniquet and properly applied it to the nearly severed leg, ultimately saving her life.

Southwest Missouri suffered a few damaging tornadoes during the spring season. In March, Webster County was hit by a tornado which damaged structures and toppled trees. Areas in Jasper and Barton counties received damage from a tornado that remained on the ground for nearly 20 miles. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in either event.

In December, the pilot of a Cirrus, single-engine airplane was forced to make an off-field landing on U.S. 65, north of Valley Water Mill Road in Greene County. The pilot

reported engine problems, which happened when the engine ran out of fuel, and attempted to make it to Springfield Downtown airport. The airplane succumbed to gravity, and the pilot did an excellent job landing on southbound U.S. 65, crossing the median and came to rest on the northbound lanes. A wing caught fire momentarily during the landing and was extinguished shortly after coming to rest. Both the pilot and his passenger walked away uninjured.

December 19, 2025, the 124th Recruit Class graduated from the Academy. Troop D welcomed Troopers Nels C. Fry, assigned to Zone 3, Blake T. Cook, assigned to Zone 10, Eric S. Leek, assigned to Zone 14, and Kyle J. Atkisson, assigned to Zone 16.

Following is a list of Troop D commanding officers.

TROOP D COMMANDERS

# 3- Lewis E. Eslick	November 24, 1931, to August 30, 1934
# 7- Lewis B. Howard	September 1, 1934, to September 30, 1939
#50-#9-#6- Rufus R. Reed	October 1, 1939, to May 15, 1942
#29- Sgt. Frank D. Hagan*	May 16, 1942, to November 8, 1942
# 6 - Frank D. Hagan	November 9, 1942, to September 21, 1944
#10- George B. Kahler	September 22, 1944, to June 30, 1955
#10- Clark W. Huston	July 1, 1955, to December 31, 1967
#10- Robert E. Swackhamer	January 1, 1968, to July 31, 1975
#10- Howard J. L. Hoffman	August 1, 1975, to May 31, 1980
#10- Edward F. Christman**	June 1, 1980, to July 31, 1980
#37- Lt. C. Lee Thompson*	May 14, 1980, to July 31, 1980
#23-#14- C. Lee Thompson	August 1, 1980, to August 31, 1987
#14- Lewis G. Ullery	September 1, 1987, to October 14, 1989
#14- Stephen R. Johnson	October 15, 1989, to October 31, 1991
#14- Michael B. Pace	November 1, 1991, to August 31, 1995
#14- Roger D. Stottlemire	September 1, 1995, to April 30, 1998
#50- Lt. Edward F. Bliefnick	May 1, 1998, to May 31, 1998
#18- Edward F. Bliefnick	June 1, 1998, to July 31, 1998
#27- Melvin O. Schmitt	August 1, 1998, to December 31, 2001
#27- John T. Prine	January 1, 2002, to July 31, 2006
#27 - Randall S. Beydler	August 1, 2006, to December 1, 2008
#27 - Juan O. Villanueva	December 1, 2008, to October 1, 2018
#27 - John M. Enderle	October 1, 2018, to January 1, 2021
#27 - Justin L. McCullough	January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022
#19 - David S. Sater	July 1, 2022, to September 1, 2024
#19 - Dale O. Jinkens	September 1, 2024, to present

*- Indicates "Acting" Troop Commander

** - S/A as Acting Commander of Troop C — Never actually served Troop D

Note: #253 — Captain James E. Marlin was assigned to Troop D after the Missouri State Water Patrol merged into the Patrol on January 1, 2011. He retired September 1, 2012.

TROOP D SATELLITE - CARTHAGE

Originated October 1, 1973

#48 - Lt. Edward F. Christman	October 1, 1973, to May 13, 1980
#48 - Lt. Robert E. Ashurst	June 1, 1980, to August 31, 1984
#51 - Lt. Edgar Joe Dayringer	September 1, 1984, to August 31, 1987
#57 - Lt. David L. Cook	September 1, 1987, to August 31, 1992
#57 - Lt. Joseph L. Swearngen	September 1, 1992, to March 31, 1999
#57 - Lt. Robert L. Powell	April 1, 1999, to April 18, 2008

No lieutenant assigned to the Troop D Satellite after Lieutenant Powell.